

In re: Gammon
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Filed: July 8, 2002
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In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A collapsible cargo storage apparatus for a vehicle interior having a seat that includes a seating area and a seat back that support a vehicle occupant, wherein the seating area has a generally concave, sloping contour, the cargo management system comprising:

a base configured to be supported by the seating area of the seat, wherein the base comprises opposite upper and lower surfaces, opposite front and rear portions, and opposite side portions, and wherein the base lower surface has a generally convex, sloping contour that matingly engages the generally concave, sloping configuration of the a seating area contour in contacting relationship, of the seat wherein the base lower surface contour helps retain the storage apparatus on the seating area and reduces the likelihood of the storage apparatus moving during vehicle movement;

a front panel pivotably attached to the base front portion via a hinge; and

a rear panel pivotably attached to the base rear portion via a hinge;

wherein the front and rear panels are each movable between a stored position and an operative position, wherein the front and rear panels extend generally perpendicular to the base for constraining motion of articles disposed on the base upper surface when in the operative position, and wherein the front and rear panels overlie the base upper surface in a flat configuration when in the stored position, and wherein the rear panel is in contacting relationship with the seat back when in the operative position.

2. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a pair of end panels pivotably attached to the respective base end portions, wherein each end panel is movable between a stored position and an operative position, wherein the end panels extend generally perpendicular to the base for constraining motion of articles disposed on the base upper surface when in the operative position, and wherein the end panels overlie the base upper surface in a flat configuration when in the stored position

3. (Currently Amended) The storage apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the base lower surface comprises a plurality of elongated, convex ribs in spaced-apart

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~~relationship contour-matingly engages a contour of a seat such that the base upper surface is maintained in a generally horizontal orientation when the storage apparatus is installed within a vehicle.~~

4. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the rear panel has a contour that is configured to matingly engage a contour of a vehicle seat back when the storage apparatus is installed within a vehicle.

5. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the front and rear panels are pivotably attached to the base panel via respective hinges, and wherein the hinges are configured to bias the front and rear panels to respective operative positions.

6. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the front and rear panels are pivotably attached to the base panel via respective hinges, and wherein the hinges are configured to bias the front and rear panels to respective stored positions.

7. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the front panel has a first height, wherein the rear panel has a second height different from the first height.

8. (Currently Amended) The storage apparatus of Claim 2, wherein one or more of the front, rear and end panels comprises a storage pocket for receiving articles therein.

9. (Currently Amended) The storage apparatus of Claim 2, wherein one or more of the front, rear and end panels comprises at least one projection extending therefrom that is configured to support one or more loaded shopping bags by the handles thereof and to maintain the one or more loaded shopping bags in an upright position during operation of the vehicle.

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10. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a handle that facilitates carrying the apparatus when the front, rear and end panels are in respective stored positions.

11. (Currently Amended) A collapsible cargo storage apparatus for a vehicle interior having a rear seat, wherein the rear seat includes two adjacent seating areas and two corresponding seat backs that support vehicle occupants, wherein each seating area has a generally concave, sloping contour, the cargo management system comprising:
a base configured to be supported by the two adjacent seating areas of the rear seat, wherein the base comprises a pair of adjacent, substantially co-planar base panels separated by an intermediate portion, each base panel comprising opposite upper and lower surfaces, opposite front and rear portions, and a side portion, wherein the lower surface of each base panel has a generally convex, sloping contour that matingly engages the generally concave, sloping configuration of a respective seating area contour in contacting relationship, wherein the contour of each lower surface helps retain the storage apparatus on the seating area and reduces the likelihood of the storage apparatus moving during vehicle movement ~~a contour of a respective one of the seating areas,~~ and wherein the base is configured to fold along the intermediate portion thereof such that the base panels are in adjacent, face-to-face relationship to facilitated storage;
a front panel pivotably attached to the front portion of each base panel; and
a rear panel pivotably attached to the rear portion of each base panel;
wherein the front and rear panels for each base panel are each movable between a stored position and an operative position, wherein the front and rear panels extend generally perpendicular to the respective base panel for constraining motion of articles disposed on the base panel upper surface when in the operative position, and wherein the front and rear panels overlie the respective base panel upper surface in a flat configuration when in the stored position, and wherein each rear panel is in contacting relationship with a respective seat back when in the operative position.

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12. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising an end panel pivotably attached to a respective base panel side portion, wherein each end panel is movable between a stored position and an operative position, wherein each end panel extends generally perpendicular to a respective base panel for constraining motion of articles disposed on the respective base panel upper surface when in the operative position, and wherein each end panel overlies the respective base panel upper surface in a flat configuration when in the stored position.

13. (Currently Amended) The storage apparatus of Claim 11, wherein each the base lower surface comprises a plurality of elongated, convex ribs in spaced-apart relationship contour matingly engages a contour of a seat such that the base upper surface is maintained in a generally horizontal orientation when the storage apparatus is installed within a vehicle.

14. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the rear panel has a contour that is configured to matingly engage a contour of a vehicle seat back when the storage apparatus is installed within a vehicle.

15. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the respective front and rear panels are pivotably attached to the base panel via respective hinges, and wherein the hinges are configured to bias the respective front and rear panels to respective operative positions.

16. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the respective front and rear panels are pivotably attached to the base panel via respective hinges, and wherein the hinges are configured to bias the respective front and rear panels to respective stored positions.

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17. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 11, wherein each front panel has a first height, wherein each rear panel has a second height different from the first height.

18. (Currently Amended) The storage apparatus of Claim 12 ~~11~~, wherein one or more of the front, rear and end panels comprises a storage pocket for receiving articles therein.

19. (Currently Amended) The storage apparatus of Claim 12 ~~11~~, wherein one or more of the front, rear and end panels comprises at least one projection extending therefrom that is configured to support one or more loaded shopping bags by the handles thereof and to maintain the one or more loaded shopping bags in an upright position during operation of the vehicle.

20. (Original) The storage apparatus of Claim 11, further comprising a handle attached to the base intermediate portion.

21. (Currently Amended) The storage apparatus of Claim 12 ~~11~~, wherein one or more of the front, rear and end panels comprises cargo netting for restraining articles placed within the storage apparatus.